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ing all ungodliness, and worldly or sinful lusts, should live soberly, godly and righteously in this world, and attain to those dispositions and habits of mind and practice which shall qualify us to be happy hereafter. I think it matters little what *name* a man bears, or what *professions* he makes, if his life and practice do not prove his sincerity. Nothing has contributed more to bring discredit on religion, than the practice of its professors, and even of those you call *chairmen*, who too often, instead of exemplifying the doctrine, and defending the interest of Jesus and true reason, are a disgrace to both by their inconsistency; but let not you and I so much dwell on the weakness, errors, divisions, blindness, and insincerity of others, as endeavour to follow after and adhere to Jesus and reason, who is as himself has declared, the way, the truth, and the life, and you know the perfection of reason is the discovery of and attachment to the truth.

A LAYMAN.

*Near Giant's Causeway, June 4th, 1814.*

Socrates the Younger and the Layman are very familiar neighbours.

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*To the Proprietors of the Belfast Magazine.*

GENTLEMEN,

I WAS a good deal surprised to see on many windows in the enlightened town of Belfast, a paper announcing the sale of double soda water. On inquiring into the cause of this name, from those who sold this agreeable beverage, I found even they were deceived, as they supposed that the force by which the cork flew, was evidence of its being double soda water. But what is still worse, and occasions much

injury is, the bottles burst, and injure not only those who make it, but hazards the eyes or limbs of the purchasers.

Those at all acquainted with chemical subjects will allow that simple saturation can only be effected by the salt, and that a particle of carbonic acid gas cannot be added after such saturation, must be admitted. It is true the elastic fluid can be compressed by force into a much less space than it naturally possesses; this elasticity is the cause of the force acting on the cask or bottle, but surely it cannot add in the smallest degree to the strength of the liquid. The manufacturer therefore is under the necessity of having bottles of greater strength; clay will not do, and they must be glass of great thickness, which enhances the price. What a pity that a fluid intended as a substitute for inebriating liquors, and in such general use, should be so much enhanced in price, in consequence of imposition. But still more, will not the silence with which men of science treat it, lead still farther to greater error? I would not be much surprised, if the present mode of making soda water is not opposed, that an air pump may be got to fill the bottles; then the explosion may be expected alarming not only to the buyers and sellers, but to the passing throng.

Your obedient servant,

AGRICOLA.

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*To the Proprietors of the Belfast Magazine.*

GENTLEMEN,

AS I am a constant reader of your Magazine, I saw in one of your late numbers "Remarks on a chapel near Larne," and as I have always found truth to be your object, I was determined from the time

of reading the remarks, to do myself the favour of visiting it. On the 16th of July, I rose early in the morning, which presented the appearance of a fine day; the clouds to the East were tinged with that beautiful golden colour, which bespoke the near approach of that magnificent luminary the Sun; several kinds of little birds were chirping their notes, and pouring forth the praises of the great Creator of animated nature; the Sun arose in all his splendour, accompanied with a gentle but refreshing breeze, and ushered in the new day with all the mild appearance characteristic of the season. I felt a sacred pleasing impulse in the idea of my little journey, which I began at five o'clock. The morning was fine, and the fields shed an agreeable odoriferous smell; the green corn began in many places to show forth its ears, bursting from its leafy confinement; and the fields of potatoes, their blossoms yet in embryo, gave lively tokens of their nearer approach to perfection. Various little birds were busied in performing their last great parental duty to their yet helpless offspring, while others whose families were farther advanced in maturity were "enjoying their evening of pleasure." Such were the rural scenes that presented themselves as I passed along the road to the village of Doagh, which is small but very handsome. At some little distance stands the country seat of the Marquis of Donegal, which has a very fine appearance. But whether such country seats be of use in amending the morals of the inhabitants of the place or not, is what I am not competent to determine; but I think it must very much depend on the disposition of the owner. As I passed through Doagh I was joined by a young man who said he was going towards Larne, and if my road led that way, he would be glad of my

company. I told him where I was going, and my business; he replied that was his business like wise, and that he was very happy in finding a companion on the road, as the same motive that I had expressed, induced him to go the same journey. We walked on very agreeably to the little town of Ballyclare, which is nearly two miles distant from the former. A monthly market, and four fairs are held in this place in the year; but it does not look very handsome from its scattered situation. We did not stop, but passed on to the village of Ballynure, two miles farther; it is a very handsome village; two fairs are held in it in the year, and it contains upwards of 60 houses all in good repair, and in an improving state: there is also a Presbyterian meeting house, and a small church at some little distance from the village, which is famous for being the first place in which Dean Swift preached. But being seldom attended by any person except the clerk, whose name was Roger, it is a common saying in that place, that he generally began the service with "Dearly beloved Roger." I had never been in the village before, but my companion had lived some time in the neighbourhood; I mentioned to him that the chief landlord must be a good man, and give good encouragement to improvements, from the appearance of the place, but my friend said he had little to do with that business, except in one or two cases, as the houses and land in and about the village were all in the hands of two families, who had always made it a main point to have so much influence on the landlord as to prevent any other of its inhabitants from having any part in or about the place, except under themselves; a circumstance which I thought somewhat remarkable.

We stopped and took breakfast,

and proceeding on our road, we were joined by several people of the village, few of whom I understood were Roman Catholics; but they having learned, that the Rev. Mr. B. was soon to leave that place, which they appeared to be sorry for, wished to hear him preach. Within a mile and a half of the chapel, the country has a very poor appearance; here and there a small spot is cultivated in the midst of black moor, hazel shrubs and rocks, which show, that the inhabitants are very industrious, when such barren parts exhibit even a small portion of cultivation. When we arrived at the chapel, it had just the same appearance as described in your Magazine; the house was very much crowded, and after the Rev. Mr. B. went through the church service, he gave in my opinion, a very learned and pathetic sermon, and concluded by recommending to all present, the great commandment of our Lord and Saviour "to love one another" as he had loved them, and not to suffer discord or disaffection to enter their breasts. That while in other parts of the country, many were butchering each other, on the score of difference of profession, that in this part of the country, the people lived in friendship and love, actuated by a due sense of their duty as Christians, and that he hoped God would always bless and preserve them from any thing of a contrary nature.

I felt myself highly satisfied with my little excursion, and my companion appeared to feel the same, as he expressed himself warmly to that effect. After mass, I observed a great many who were not Catholics go up and shake hands with Mr. B. in a familiar and friendly manner. One person I knew in particular, who was a very respectable gentleman and a yeoman. He told me,

that a great many whom he pointed out were yeomen, and often came to hear Mr. B. preach, he also added that Mr. B. was often invited to the houses of a great many respectable Presbyterians belonging to the place; that to live in peace and friendship with every person was in his own opinion, a more effectual way of showing loyalty, than by employing the gun and bayonet; and that the greater part of the inhabitants of this place were Presbyterians, and had no great inclination to quarrel with their neighbours on matters of religion, which had been wisely pointed out by Mr. B. with great propriety amongst his hearers

From the rocky and barren appearance of the place, it called to my mind the manner in which the Swiss in their bleak mountains manage their church affairs; in many of their cantonments, where one church serves all the different religions, whether Roman Catholics, Lutherans, or Calvinists, all perform their several forms of worship in the same church. How contrary is the conduct practised in different parts of this country, by too many of our clergy, whose constant study appears to be, to keep alive the flame of division amongst their several hearers; some have openly avowed their malevolent disposition.

Shame upon the authors of such low mental baseness; how long is this country to be disturbed by such mental tools? Or is it destined to be an abomination to all other nations and people to rank us as barbarians and worse than cannibals, for were we really cannibals, there would be some excuse for our devouring each other. It is an indelible stain upon the name of an Irishman, a name that history has always recorded as generous, brave, and forgiving; surely Irishmen you shame-

fully forget your great and good name, when you engage in oaths premeditatedly against your brethren, you whose hospitable doors were never yet known to be closed against the stranger or unfortunate. It is well known that you have warm and feeling hearts, then why should the malicious demons of wickedness, be suffered to infuse the poison of disaffection, in order to degrade you below your true character. Cast such vile reptiles from your confidence, and shew you are once more Irishmen, who disdain to become the scoff and odium of every nation on earth. Shew that you will no longer be induced by mean incendiaries to violate the sacred ties of love and friendship in the bosom of your country; for who amongst you meeting your countryman from home, would not lend him your assistance, if necessity required it, and why should your hearts be so callous to all noble feelings, as to murder and massacre each other at home? No! Irishmen! disdain such an imputation, and shew the world you are men who will not sully your great and good name by such infamous acts of barbarism. U.H.  
*Donegore, August 29, 1814.*

*For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.*

EDWARD WAKEFIELD'S LECTURE, DELIVERED AT THE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE, ON THE 16TH OF MARCH 1813.

**I**N those countries where freedom and the arts have not yet been introduced, or introduced in but a comparatively trifling degree, we find the progress of agriculture nearly stationary, and with it an unincreasing population: but wherever the farmer has been encouraged by the protection of his government or the fostering hand of science, the

principle of life has been awakened in exact proportion to the means of subsistence; and an infinite number of human beings have been called to all the joys of existence, that without such support would in all probability have remained in oblivion, or without the pleasure of being useful to their species or grateful to their creator.

From agriculture the chief and original source of national wealth, the whole circle of arts and manufactures derive their support and encouragement. At an early stage in the progress of man they are found mutually to assist and to protect each other, and the pace of improvement becomes by their union rapid and increasing. It is thus that the plough, the shuttle, and the sail, confer their benefits reciprocally; and by the exchange of the products of the different climates of the earth the inhabitants of the polar regions enjoy the luxuries of the tropics, and the swarthy children of the line draw whatever is useful to them from the more temperate regions.

Increasing as is the ardour for agricultural pursuits in this country, and much as has been achieved in the way of improvement, yet the spirit, it is to be hoped, has not attained its highest fervour, nor must the improvements stop with our present acquirements. From this pursuit we ought to derive one of the greatest of national securities, that of being independent of foreign states for the means of subsistence. With full markets, an industrious population, and a moral and free government, to what heights of perfection may not man arrive! These considerations are of equal importance to all the subjects of this empire; they are as interesting to the elevated proprietor of large portions of the soil, as they are to the states-